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ROCKY LANE WESTERN

T THE EDGE OF TOWN ...

HERE WE ARE! NOW A REMEMBER, THIS DODGE GALLS FER PERFECT

TIMING! YUH ROB THE BANK AND START SHOOT-

NG THINGS UP AT TWO

O'GLOCK SHARP!

EVERAL BACKBREAKING HOURS LATER.

RIGHT! FORK YORE BRONGS AND FOLLOW

IN TO TOWN FER

ME! WE'RE GOING 4

WHEW! THAT WAS SOME JOB, FOX, BUT IF IT LL GET " ROCKY LANE OUT OF THE WAY,

7 IT WAS WORTH IT!















ROCKY LANE WESTERN



















ISSUE





















STRAIN, INCREASING

2. SPONSE RUBB









THAT ALL DEPENDS























































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PHYHE COLT slipped from his holster, clattered crazily down the jutting rocks and shot out, spinning in the aun to the desert floor far below. Deputy Sheriff Tom Bent clenched the fists he would have to use against an armed killer. He called himself a fool to come out so far into the desert against the Sheriff's warning, searching for his friend Abe Easter

Then he thought of the remains he had found only that morning, the back of the skull smashed by a rifle bullet. He had recognized the boots Abe had won from him on a bet. His jaw hardened in determination to bring Abe's killer to justice.

Tom stepped down carefully until he sat on his beels just above the cave-like opening into the face of the rock. He studied the layout. Just below him on a broad stone table overlooking the vast desert, a cradle for washing gold rested on a rough rock foundation. Provisiona lay scattered in packages just outside the mine face. Four bulging leather bags lay among them. If these were gold dust, the bags contained a fortune. It was clear enough why Abe lay at the foot of the mountain and why Phil Dyer had been absent so long from his usual gambling haunts in town.

Tom looked for the rifle, But he knew Dver wouldn't be ao careless as to leave it outside of the gold mine. It must be inside the tunnel where the gambler was working. Just then a muffled explosion shook the rocky earth. Tom felt the tremors through his boots. Dynamite!

Months ago, back in town. Ahe had said he needed the dynamite to clear tree stumps from land he had bought. He was very vague about the land and its location. But Phil Dyer, the gambler, had been smart enough to put together the dynamite and the vague location and come up with the real answer-gold! Dver had followed Abe out of town and when the months passed and both of them failed to return, Tom suspected foul play.

He atood up above the mine opening, "Dyer!" he called out. "This is Tom Bent. I've come to take you in for the murder of Abe Easter. Throw out your guns and come out reaching.

At first there was ailence. Then a laugh like the raving of a hoarse hyena sounded below him. For a moment Tom thought he was all wrong about Dyer. It didn't sound like the suave gambler Tom knew. Then a thick voice spoke. "How do you know Easter's dead? Where's proof I did it?"

Talking might bring Dyer out where he could jump him. Choosing his words carefully and talking slowly. Tom tried to get him out closer to the opening. Tom's eyes were glued below him. He was noised like a broad jumper for any sign of a gun barrel.

"I found Abe-or what the buzzards left of him-down below on the desert. He was shot in the back of his head with a rifle. When Abe Easter left town five months ago with full provisions you were seen heading out after him carrying only a saddle blanket and a rifle. How have you been feeding all this time? This grub down below looks mighty like the stuff Abe Easter bought in town."

Tom waited for a response. There was no answer.

"I find you working a gold strike. When did you find it? Two and two adds up to Phil Dyer trailing Abe Easter out of town. You auspected just what you found - cold! You shot him after locating the atrike and tossed his body over the cliff. Then you lived off Abe's provisions while you worked the mine. That's murder, and I'm taking you in for it."

Again there was silence. Then the rusty voice challenged him, "Five months living like a dog and you expect me to come out pretty as you please. I've got gold enough to keep me a lifetime. I'll kill any man who stands in

(Please turn to next page)



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the way. You hear? Any man! Come and take tw.
me. Bent, if you've got the guts!"

"Dyer," Tom called back, "you can make at easy or make it hard. But either way I'm taking you in!" His fingers scratched his tempty holster. "Your grub is out here, right under the barrel of my gun. You can stay inside till hell freezes over, but the grub stays out here."

Inside the mine. Dyer thought he was trapped. Tom Bent had reconstructed the murder like an eyewitness. No smooth talk could move this deputy, he knew from experience in town. One possibility remained to him. By tossing out the rifle he could divert Bent's attention long enough to light and throw out one of the dynamite sticks from inside the tun-

nel and wipe out the deputy sheriff.

"All right, Bent," he called out suddenly.
"You've got me." He threw out his rifle, the
same Winchester that had snuffed out Easter's

same Winchester that had snulfed our Easter's life. Tom leaped for it like a mountain lion. As he landed in the brilliant sunlight. Dyer saw from the mouth of the tunnel that Tom's holder, was empty. With an earl Dyer sprang with fingers that work had curved like talons. He kicked the rifle into the dust at the edge of the cliff. Sector Tom could reach it.

Tom whited and smashed Dyet hack against the rock. He hardly recognized the town's slickest gambler. Gaunt, bearded, his clothes filthy rags. Dyer stared out at the clean-cut deputy from cat's eyes. No quarter was promised in those eyes. Dyer was fighting for his life. He came back at Tom bent over, loping like a beat. Tom swung, knocking the killer away from the rifle Dyer was groping for. Bone crashed

the rille Dyer was groping for. Bone crashed Backing up. Then tipped as his bost caught between two rocks of the washing cradle. Dyer was on him in a fishel, clavible ingress tight around Tow's threat Dreathing as though a student of the control of the control

grip on it when Tom granged the barrel and

twisted it away from certain death for him. Tom pulled with all his strength to wrest the gun from Dyer's hands. As they strained, the barrel pointed straight at the mouth of the mine. Dyer's inget had just encircled the trigger when a sudden lurch by Tom fired the rifle over his shoulder.

over his shoulder.

The sharp report of the rifle was drowned in the mullied thunder of exploding dynamite insade the mine. The side of the clift puffed out with a roar as they watched in surprise. Then it collapsed like an accordion and a vast slide of rock tumbled down the mountainside, burying the gold strike beneath hundreds of tons of rubble and wiping out its location. Far below, the remans of Abe Easter were buried to the contraction of th

Full realization of his loss drove Dyer berserk. He jerked the gun stock violently as they stood at the edge of the clift. Using an old trick. Tom suddenly relaxed his pressure and pushed the gun toward Dyer, who was pulling. Then, swift as lightning. Tom jerked the rifle out of his hands before Dyer could fire. The gun flew over the edge of the cliff in a high arc.

Tom went for Dyer with swift battering blows to the body. The gembler grunted as his ribs and chest were punished by a pair of seleglenhammers. Sweat poured down Tom's sleedgeshammers. Sweat poured down Tom's sleedgeshammers. We should be seleglenhammers are so that the selection of the selecti

THE DEPUTY skinned the sweat from his face and pulled Dyer to his feet. "Dyer, can you understand me?" he asked. Dyer node. "The usking you back for rail. The only grab we've got is packed on my saddle. If you may be to be used to be used to be used to be used to be used. The only pulled to the use of the chance you'll get at the trial. But you'll get you justice If I have our grow put in I now that's how Alte would have wanted at." He waved to how Alte would have wanted at." He waved to Three he tilted Duer to his advicates to take.

him down the cliff on the long journey home.



















































BUT AT THAT SECOND ---I'LL JUST STAND NERE AND I FIGURED IF I CATCH HIM AS NE COMES IN TLED THE DOOR KNO SOMEONE'S COULD BE DOOR! NOW I'VE GO M OFF GUARD CKAY, LANE, PUT YORE NANDS UP! YOU'LL NEVER ON YES, I WILL! YO'RE THE ONLY FLY IN THE DINTMENT ! INTO MY BUSINESS, SO NOW YOUR WHOLE TH YUH DEAD NEVER BE ABLE UNLUCKY YUH MEAN ! I'LL SHOOT YUH FIRST AND THEN ROCKY! BUT THE SECRET MARSHAL NEVER MISSES THE SUSNIEST OFFORTUNIT VER BELIEVE HAT STORY ABOUT WHEN 2 E BLANK CHECK YOUR COMING IN WHEN (GULPI) YOU DID, JOE, WAS HE SHOT WUN ITH YOU AND BO PERPECTLY TIMED! GUN AWAY I DEAD ! NOW I'M GAVE ME TIME GET OUT UN MANE IT!











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lim's head, places his hands on the victim's back, with thumbs just touching and the heels of the hands just below a line running between the victim's armpits.

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straight, until his arms are almost vertical

overting steady pressure upon the back.

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